Government is committed to take all necessary action to ensure that Government of Pakistan and its officials do not misuse their normal privileges and that Pakistan's attempts to promote terrorism directed against India are completely thwarted.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, first of all I would like to thank that the distinguished ministerial troika of the External Affairs Ministry for being present here in full force. In paragraph 2 of the reply, you have stated that the Charged Affairs of Pakistan in Delhi was declared *persona non grata* because of his involvement in this incident. Was he actually caught handing over money to the lady, Anjum Zamarud Habib. Where was she arrested- from outside the Pak High Commission, or, at some distance from the Pak High Commission.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: माननीय सभापति जी, हमारे सम्मानित सदस्य ने जो सवाल पूछा है इसकी पूरी जानकारी उनको भी है, यह मुझे जानकारी है। लेकिन उन्होंने सदन के माध्यम से मुझसे सवाल पूछा है इसलिए इसके बारे में बताना जरूरी है। आपको पता है और इसकी पूरी जानकारी अखबारों में भी छप चुकी है कि जिस व्यक्ति, महिला को हमारी पुलिस ने पकड़ा था, उसके माध्यम से पूरी जानकारी मिली और उसके सबूत भी हम लोगों को मिले और उसके आधार पर वह कार्यवाही की गई। वहां पर देते हमने उनको नहीं पकड़ा था।

Satyagraha by workers

*144. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:††

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on January 8, 2003 a nation-wide Satyagraha was observed by the workers affiliated to different Central Trade Unions and independent employees federations;

(b) if so, what were their demands; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

Statement

(a) to (c) All the major Central Trade Unions (non-BMS) observed a nation-wide Satyagraha on January 8, 2003. Their demands were:

(i) halt to privatisation of profit making and potentially viable public sector undertakings;

(ii) no changes in the labour laws, including the Industrial Disputes Act and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, favouring the employers and against the interest of workers;

(iii) restoration of quantitative restrictions on imports, the removal of which is much to the detriment of industry, agriculture and national interest as a whole;

(iv) no to policies leading to serve aggravation of joblessness and unemployment and evolving nation-wide employment generation policies and programme;

(v) well thought-out social security schemes including unemployment insurance scheme;

(vi) immediate enactment of comprehensive legislation for agriculture workers;

(vii) amendment of Payment of Bonus Act by removing all ceilings; and

(viii) restoration of 12 per cent interest on E.P.F. deposits.

The Ministry of Labour is conscious of the concern of the Central Trade Union. Various amendments in the labour laws are considered with a view to promoting harmonious industrial relations after adequate consultation with all the social partners. The requirements of growing and competitive economy will, however, be kept in view while proposing changes in the labour laws.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the reply, it has been stated that the Ministry of Labour is conscious expressed by the concern of the Central Trade Union. But according to us, the Ministry is unconscious about their demands. What is the Government's reaction to this? Yesterday, there was a massive demonstration by the Trade Unions here. So, my only question to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is whether he will take up this issue seriously and discuss with all trade unions about their demands.

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न किया है उसका उत्तर मैंने दे दिया है। माननीय सदस्य जो बात और पूछ रहे हैं, वह इसके अंदर शामिल है। इन्होंने जो आठ पाइंट्स में अपनी मांगें रखी थीं, अगर माननीय सदस्य किसी के बारे में भी विस्तृत जानकारी चाहते हैं तो मैं वह प्रस्तुत कर सकता हूं। अगर माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं कि मैं सबके बारे में बताऊं तो फिर आपकी जो 20 क्वेश्चन्स की व्यवस्था चल रही है, वह पूरी नहीं हो पायेगी। मेरे पास सभी आठ पाइंट्स का जवाब हैं, लेकिन उसमें आधे घंटे का समय लग जाएगा।

श्री सभापति: आप जवाब इनके पास भेज दीजिएगा।

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: हां, मैं भेज दूंगा।

Accidents on National Highways

*145. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:††

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that lakhs of innocent people are being killed on the National Highways every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the accidents and deaths that have taken place during the last five years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent such accidents?

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri C. Raamachandraiah.